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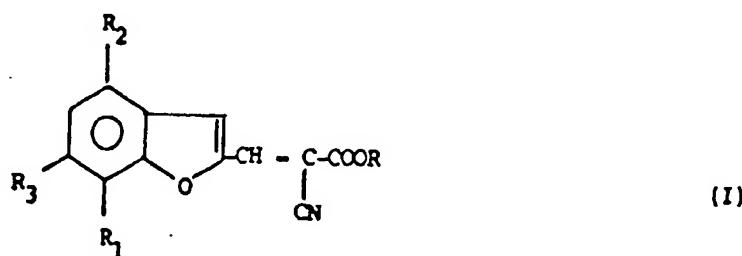
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⑯ Benzofuran derivatives useful as sunscreens.

⑯ Benzofuran derivatives of formula (I)

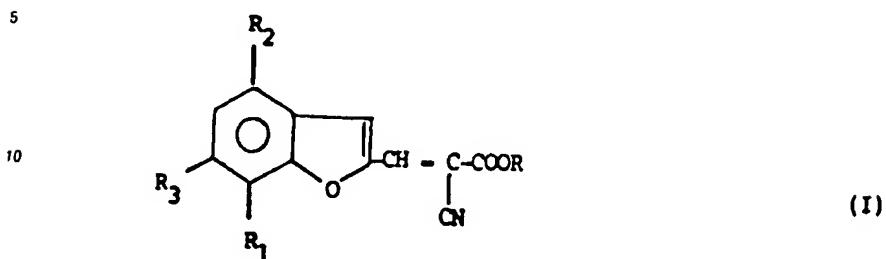


in which R is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl or a divalent residue which is in its turn linked to a residue which can be obtained from (I) by removing R, highly absorb the sunlight radiations in the UVA region and, in combination with UVB sunscreens, they effectively protect the skin from noxious sunlight radiations.

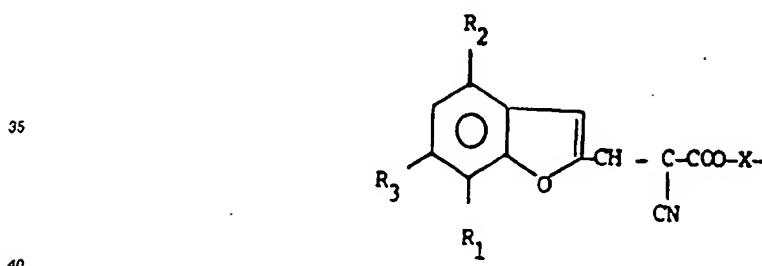
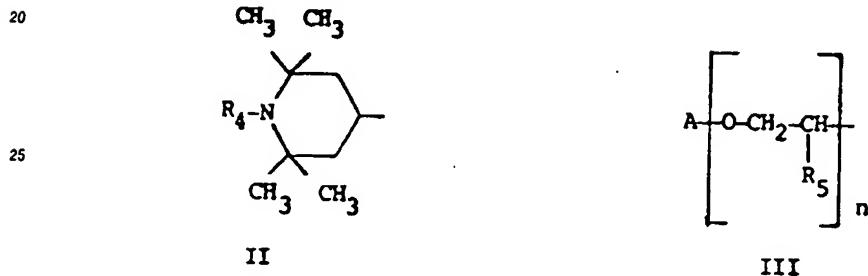
EP 0 582 189 A2

The present invention relates to novel benzofuran derivatives of general formula (I) and the use thereof as sunscreens.

The compounds of the invention have the following formula (I)



in which R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> straight or branched alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> cycloalkyl, aralkyl, or a group of formula (II), (III) or (IV)

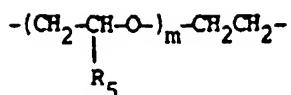


45 in which R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are hydrogen or methyl;  
 A is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> straight or branched alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, n can be an integer 1 to 10;  
 X is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> straight or branched alkylene or the divalent residue of formula (V) or (VI)

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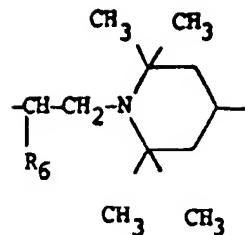
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V



VI

15 in which m is an integer 1 to 20 and R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;  
 R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> can be the same or different and are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> straight or branched alkyl;  
 R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or alkoxy.

Ultraviolet radiations of sunlight are known to exert a damaging action on skin tissue. In fact, the prolonged exposure to sunlight is considered to be the main cause in the development of degenerative processes and of some skin tumours.

20 By using particular compounds, the so-called sunscreens, which are capable of absorbing the UV part of solar radiation, the damaging effects and the aging of the skin can be prevented or, at least, slowed down.

25 A number of substances have been studied and tested as protecting agents, and an extensive patent literature exists on this subject, in which compounds belonging to different chemical classes are proposed, which are capable of absorbing in the ultraviolet region, particularly the radiation from 290 to 400 nm.

The radiation from 290 to 320 nm (named UV-B) causes erythema to form, whereas the one from 320 to 400 nm (named UV-A) is responsible for skin suntan.

20 Sunscreens adsorbing in the UV-B region are widely used as protecting agents against sunburns; whereas the use of sun screens to shield skin from UV-A radiations was unknown until some time ago, except for some cases of particular therapies.

30 However, recent researches evidenced that the continued and intensive UV-A radiation can also cause remarkable skin damages and, moreover, it accelerates the aging of the skin.

Only a few of the compounds proposed up to now as sunscreens proved suitable for the practical 35 application. Among these, p-methoxy-cinnamic acid and p-dimethylaminobenzoic acid esters for UVB; hydroxybenzophenones and dibenzoylmethane derivatives for UVA.

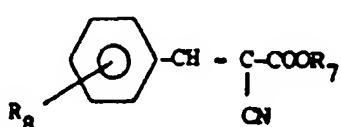
Now it has surprisingly been found that the compounds of formula (I) highly absorb sunlight radiations in the UVA region, therefore, in combination with the UVB sunscreens, they can effectively protect the skin from the damaging radiations of sunlight, thus preventing an early aging of the skin.

40 The compounds of the present invention are prepared according to known methods (Knoevenagel's condensation) from benzofuran-2-carboxyaldehyde and cyanoacetic acid esters, which are in their turn obtained by esterifying cyanoacetic acid or by transesterifying methyl- or ethyl cyanoacetate with the corresponding alcohols.

The compounds of formula (I) in which R is an higher alkyl or a group of formula (II)-(IV) can be 45 conveniently prepared also by transesterifying the compounds of formula (I) in which R is methyl or ethyl. The compounds are recovered and, if necessary, purified according to known methods.

D 1087902, D 2816819 and US 3275520 disclose structurally similar compounds containing the cyanobenzylidene group of the following formula (VII)

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(VII)

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in which R<sub>7</sub> is alkyl and R<sub>8</sub> hydroxy or alkoxy; however, these compounds show a lower absorption in the UVA region than the one of the compounds according to the present invention, in which the absorption

peaks in the 330-370 region are higher than those of 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone and also of 4-tert-butyl-4-methoxydibenzoylmethane, which are UVA sunscreens used nowadays in the preparation of cosmetic or dermatological formulations.

According to the present invention, the compounds of formula (I) are used preferably in combination with UVB sunscreens for the preparation of cosmetic or dermatological formulations suitable for the protection of the skin exposed to the damaging action of sunlight radiations.

The UVA sun screens of formula (I) can be added, of course also in combination with UVB sunscreens and/or other stabilizers, to the cosmetic formulations, generally in amounts ranging from 0.05 to 15%, preferably from 0.1 to 10% by weight of the cosmetic formulation.

The compounds of formula (I) are added either to protect the formulations themselves, for example to prevent undesired discolourations, or to protect the skin treated with the formulation from the damaging action of sunlight radiations, which cause a premature wrinkled and squamous appearance and sometimes even tumours.

The cosmetic formulations which are added with the light stabilisers according to the present invention, can be of various kinds and they can be used for different purposes. Generally they are in form of ointments, creams, lotions, emulsions and the like.

The following examples illustrate the invention.

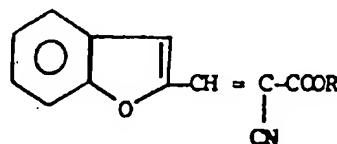
**Example 1**

44 g of benzofuran-2-carboxyaldehyde dissolved in 180 ml of toluene are added with 33 g of methylcyanoacetate, 0.8 g of piperidine and 2 g of acetic acid, refluxed and stirred 2 hours, removing the formed water. The reaction mixture is cooled and the formed precipitate is filtered, washed twice with toluene and dried.

6 g of compound of formula (VIII) with R = CH<sub>3</sub> are obtained, in form of a yellow crystalline substance with m.p. 143-145 °C and with E' of 1426 at 359 nm.

Following the procedure described in Example 1, the compounds listed in Table 1 are obtained.

**TABLE 1**



(VIII)

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Example	R	M.p. (°C)	E'	nm
2	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> -CH(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )-CH <sub>2</sub> -	50-52 °C	1100	360
3	CH <sub>3</sub> -CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )-CH <sub>2</sub> -	53-55	1212	360
4	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> -CH(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )-CH <sub>2</sub> -	69-71	1199	360
5	 CH <sub>3</sub> -N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	126-128	940	360

Example 6

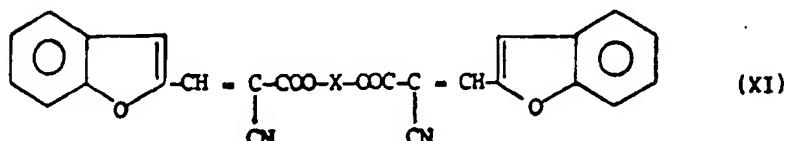
5.2 g of 1,10 decanediol dissolved in 60 ml of xylene are added with 1.45 g of the compound of the Example 1 and 0.1 g of tetrabutyl ortotitanate, the mixture is heated slowly to 180°C distilling xylene at the same time, then stirring is continued for 2 more hours at 180°C. The product is crystallized from a mixture of toluene and octane, to obtain 12 g of compound of formula (IX), with X =  $(\text{CH}_2)_{10}$ , as a whitish substance with m.p. 112-114°C and with E' of 1229 at 359 nm.

Following the procedure described in Example 6, the compounds listed in Table 2 are prepared.

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TABLE 2

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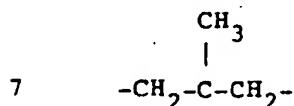


(XI)

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Example	X	M.p. (°C)	E'	nm
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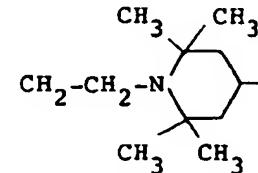
162-165    1380    359

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241-243    1164    361

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143-145    1293    360

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Example 10Preparation of a sun cream

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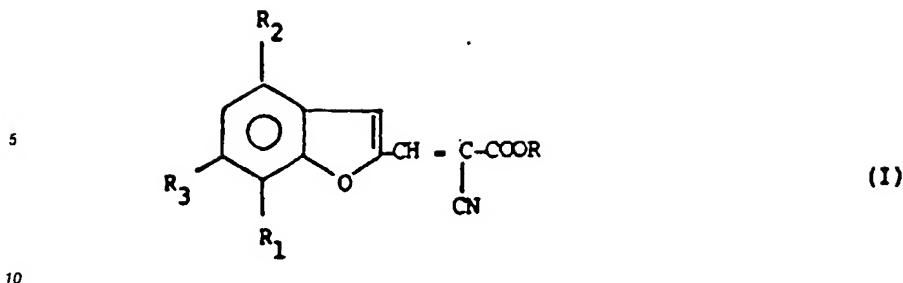
A mixture consisting of 10 g of cyclodimeticone/dimeticone copolymer (Dow Corning Q 2-3223), 10 g of cyclomericone (Dow Corning 344), 0.5 g of polysorbate 20 (Tween 20) and 2 g of the compound of Example 9 is prepared.

This mixture is added to a previously prepared solution of 0.2 g of 1,1'-methylene-bis-3-(3'-hydroxy-methyl-2,4-dioxy-imidazolidinyl)urea, 0.05 g of methyl paraben and 77.25 g of water.

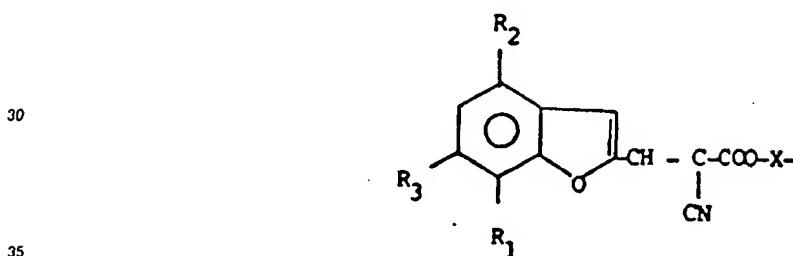
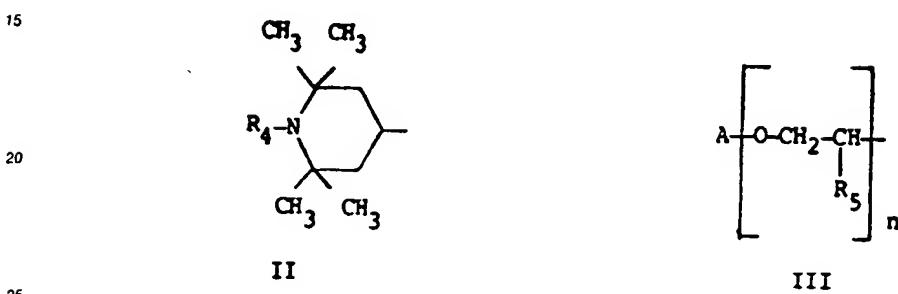
Claims

## 1. Compounds of general formula (I)

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in which R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> straight or branched alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> cycloalkyl, aralkyl, or a group of formula (II), (III) or (IV)



IV

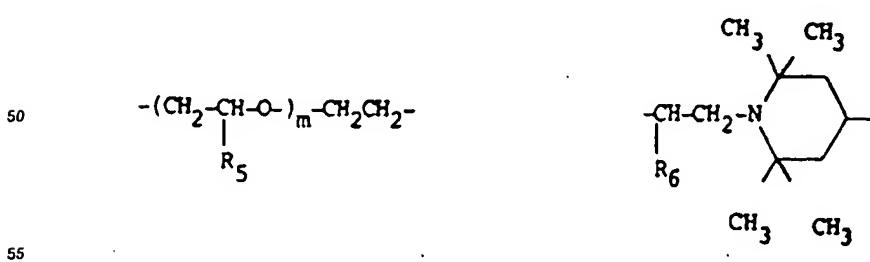
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in which R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are hydrogen or methyl;

A is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> straight or branched alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, n can be an integer 1 to 10;

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EP 0 582 189 A2

in which m is an integer 1 to 20 and R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;  
R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> can be the same or different and are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> straight or branched alkyl;  
R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or alkoxy.

- 5 2. The use of the compounds according to claim 1 as sunscreens for the preparation of cosmetic and dermatological compositions for the protection of the skin.
3. The use of the compounds according to claim 1 as agents useful in dermatology.
- 10 4. Cosmetic or dermatological compositions containing one or more compounds according to claim 1.
5. Cosmetic or dermatological compositions according to claim 4, containing 0.1 to 10% by weight of compounds of formula (I).

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